The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:
Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Navajo Nation implements 32-hour partial weekend lockdowns and updates daily curfew hours

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Thursday, the Navajo Department of Health issued Public Health Emergency Order 2020-019, which implements a partial weekend lockdown for the next four weekends in August, starting Saturday, Aug. 8, 2020 beginning at 9:00 P.M. (MDT) to Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. (MDT), and continuing for the weekends of August 15- 17, 2020, August 22-24, 2020, and August 29-31, 2020. The new order also changes the daily curfew hours from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. (MDT).

According to the Department of Health government offices in neighboring states, the number of new cases of COVID-19 are on a downward trajectory during the previous seven days and hospitalization capacity is lower than the 80-percent threshold. Similarly, the Navajo Nation's new COVID-19 case trends have declined, and the percent of positive COVID-19 tests is less than 10-percent, and hospitalization capacity remains below the 80-percent threshold. Health experts advice that Navajo Nation residents continue to adhere to all public health orders to avoid another spike in new cases.

"Here on the Navajo Nation, we've gone 42 consecutive days with less than 100 positive COVID-19 cases being reported daily, but we also recognize that the virus still presents substantial risk to our communities. That risk is elevated even more when we have our citizens traveling off the Navajo Nation, visiting family and friends and going into public often. Until there is a safe vaccine in place, we will continue to face this modern-day monster. The 32-hour weekend lockdown presents an opportunity for everyone to prepare for the upcoming winter season by gathering fire wood, water, food, and other necessities that will be needed," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

All businesses including all stores, gas stations, restaurants, drive-thru food establishments, hay and all other vendors are required to cease operations and close during the partial weekend lockdowns and daily curfew hours.

Individuals are permitted to conduct farming activities and tend to livestock, however, livestock owners must plan ahead to purchase hay and feed – hay vendors will not be allowed to sell during

the partial weekend lockdowns and daily curfew hours. Essential Employees reporting to or from duty are exempted from the partial weekend lockdown, but must carry official identification or a letter of designation from their employer on official letterhead which includes a contact name and number for verification.

"It's critical that people plan and prepare ahead of time for the partial weekend lockdowns and daily curfews. We will continue to assess the daily number of cases and listen to the health care experts to determine if more public health orders are needed down the road. Please continue to pray for our first responders, those recovering from COVID-19, and those who are grieving for their loved ones. We will overcome this pandemic together," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

Public Health Emergency Order 2020-019 also outlines more provisions for curbside and drive-thru businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, laundry facilities, and drive-in gatherings during non-curfew hours. To view the entire Public Health Emergency Order, please click on the following link: https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/PDF/PHE/NDOH%20Public%20Health%20Emergency%20Order%202020-020%20Dikos%20Ntsaaigii-19.pdf?ver=rQFqB0CZ5Kl968E3NDOsmw%3d%3d

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PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM

August 6, 2020

Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-019

Public Health Emergency Order Regarding Updated Daily Curfew Hours and 32-Hour Weekend Lockdown

I. Paragraphs I – IX from Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-004 are included with this Public Health Order, addressing the various Navajo Nation (Nation) authorities related to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

II. Starting Friday, August 7, 2020, updated daily curfew hours are from 9:00 P.M. MDT to 5:00 A.M. MDT.

III. The intent and purpose of this Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-019 is to restrict the movement of individuals on the Nation for a 32-hour period, and implement a partial weekend lockdown for the next for the next four (4) weekends in August, starting Saturday, August 8, 2020 at 9:00 P.M. MDT to Monday, August 10, 2020 at 5:00 A.M. MDT, and continuing for the same 32-Hour time periods for the weekends of August 15-17, 2020, August 22-24, 2020, and August 29-31, 2020.

IV. According to the Department of Health government offices in neighboring states, the number of new cases of COVID-19 are on a downward trajectory during the previous seven (7) days and hospitalization capacity is lower than the 80% threshold. Similarly, Navajo Nation new COVID-19 case trends have declined, and the percent of COVID-19 tests which are positive is less than 10%, and hospitalization capacity remains below the 80% threshold. However, continued vigilance to avoid a rebound in new cases will require lifting curfews hours cautiously. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "indicators to adjust community mitigation strategies consist of a decreasing trend of newly identified cases; a decrease in the percentage of SARS-CoV-2 tests which are positive within a 14-day window; and sufficient inpatient hospital bed capacity (<80% in use) across the jurisdiction."

V. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "COVID-19 cases and deaths have been reported in all 50 states, and the situation is constantly changing. Because travel increases your chances of getting infected and spreading COVID-19, **staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick**."

VI. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019

(COVID-19)" and "**the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread**."

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS GIVEN that, pursuant to the power and authority set forth in the NDOH enabling legislation (NNC Resolution No. CO-50-14), and in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Public Health State of Emergency Declaration (CEM Resolution No. 20-03-11):

A. **Updated Daily Curfew Hours**: A daily 9:00 P.M MDT to 5:00 A.M. MDT curfew applies to all individuals across the Nation, seven days a week. All individuals shall be at home during curfew hours, except in the event of an emergency.
   1. Essential Businesses shall limit operations before 6:00 A.M. MDT and after 8:00 P.M. MDT to permit customers to obey the daily curfew.
   2. The daily curfew does not apply to Essential Employees reporting to or from duty. An essential employee must carry official identification or a letter of designation from their essential business or essential government activity employer on official letterhead, naming a point of contact with contact information for verification.
   3. This daily curfew does not apply to Essential Businesses that do not directly serve customers, including Food Cultivation (as described in Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003).

B. All individuals on the Navajo Nation shall comply with the **32-Hour Weekend Lockdown** across the Nation from 9:00 P.M. MDT on Saturday, August 8, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, August 10, 2020; from 9:00 P.M. MDT on Saturday, August 15, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, August 17, 2020; from 9:00 P.M. MDT on Saturday, August 22, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, August 24, 2020; and from 9:00 P.M. MDT on Saturday, August 29, 2020 to 5:00 A.M. MDT on Monday, August 31, 2020. All individuals shall remain home during lockdown hours except in the event of an emergency as described below:

   1. Individuals are still permitted to cultivate food (i.e. farming) and tend to livestock. However, plan ahead to purchase hay and feed, if needed.
   2. Individuals are not required to remain indoors during Weekend Lockdown. Outdoor activity is encouraged and individuals may leave their immediate residence or home site area for exercise such as running or hiking, so long as movement is restricted to no more than five (5) miles from one's home.
   3. **Essential Businesses,** including *all stores*, *gas stations*, restaurants and drive-through food establishments shall be closed. Hay and all other vendors must cease operations for the duration of the Weekend Lockdown. This closure and cease operations requirement does not apply to Healthcare Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, or Essential Infrastructure (as those terms are defined below), or to Food Cultivation operations. Essential Employees reporting to or from duty are exempted from the Weekend Lockdown but must carry official identification or a letter of designation from their employer on official letterhead which includes a contact name and number for verification.

C. All Essential Businesses may remain open during non-curfew hours on Saturday August 8, August 15, August 22, and August 29.

1. Essential Businesses must operate on a curb-side or drive-through basis to the greatest extent possible.

2. Grocery stores, gas stations, laundry facilities, shall:
   a. Continue to maintain customer occupancy limits.
   b. Ensure that employees and customers wear masks
   c. Ensure that customers abide by social (physical) distancing standards.
   d. Ensure that high-touch surface areas are regularly disinfected.
   e. Ensure that customers have access to disinfectant wipes or spray, hand sanitizer, or handwashing stations.

D. Drive-in gatherings may be conducted on Saturday August 8, August 15, August 22, and August 29 during non-curfew hours, as long as event organizers ensure the following requirements are in place:

1. For drive-in gatherings, participants must remain in the vehicle in which they arrived, except to use the restroom.
2. Vehicles are parked at least six (6) feet from other vehicles, in all four directions.
3. Organizers and participants wear masks.
4. Gathering is conducted in a no-contact manner, maintaining social distancing standards.

Event organizers are also required to:

1. Limit the number of people in a restroom to no more than five (5) people.
2. Ensure that people have access to a handwashing station, sanitizer, or gloves.
3. Ensure that high-touch surfaces are regularly disinfected.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that this Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until a future Order rescinds or changes it.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the public is advised take the following preventive precautions:

1. Plan and act ahead: buy or get supplies you might need, including medical supplies, food, water, animal feed, firewood or coal, and fuel for your vehicles, during non-curfew hours.

2. Socially distance yourselves. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Keep at least six feet from others in public.

3. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

4. To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – door handles, handrails, etc. Use a barrier such as a tissue or gloves to cover your hands or fingers if you must touch something.

5. Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, mouth. Cover your mouth and nose with the best-available protective material, including masks, when in public.

6. Clean and disinfect your home and vehicles to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, steering wheels, door handles, gearshifts, and cell phones).

ADDITIONAL ADVISORIES AND ORDERS WILL FOLLOW AS CONDITIONS WARRANT. SO ORDERED THIS 6th DAY OF August, 2020.

Herman Shorty, Program Supervisor III
Navajo Office of Environmental Health &
Protection Program
Navajo Department of Health

Dr. Jill Jim, Executive Director
Navajo Department of Health

David Nez, Incident Manager
Dikos Ntsaaígíí – 19
Health Command Center
Navajo Department of Health

Definitions

Drive-in means attending a gathering without leaving one's vehicle.

Emergency: a serious, unexpected, or dangerous situation requiring immediate action, including a medical condition that requires immediate treatment.

Essential Businesses: Healthcare Operation, Essential Governmental Functions and Essential Infrastructure (e.g., courts of law, medical providers for urgent care, public utilities, and critical school operations such as nutrition programs). (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020 and expanded through Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020 to include grocery stores, food banks, convenience stores, hardware stores and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, non-grocery products, wholesale and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences, among other things.)

Gathering: means any grouping together of individuals in a single connected location. (From Public Health Emergency Order dated March 18, 2020).

Social Distancing Requirements: Limiting proximity of people to 6 feet from any other person. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-002, March 19, 2020). Also known as Physical Distancing.

Social Distancing Standards: Not shaking hands, staying at least six feet away from other people, avoiding crowds, etc. (From Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-003, March 20, 2020). Also known as Physical Distancing.